

**ARIZONA COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

**Minutes of Thursday, December 11, 2014 from 9:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M
Maricopa Association of Governments
302 North 1st Avenue, Suite 300, Phoenix, Arizona 85003**

Commission Members Present:

Billie Spurlin
Buddy Rocha (phone)
Nathan Pryor
Lucinda Hughes-Juan
Francis Bradley
Leah Hubbard

Commission Members Absent:

Dave Castillo
Dan Brooks
Derreck Wheeler
Philbert Watahomigie, Sr.

Staff Present:

Kristine Fire Thunder
Kelly Hedman

Ex-Officio Officers Present

Michael Allison
Courtney Coolidge (phone)
Dawn Williams (phone)

Ex-Officio Officers Absent

Debora Norris
Keith Watkins
Misty Klann
Dawn Melvin
Mary Huyser

Members of the Public Present:

Tanayia White, Freeport McMoRan
Shawn Carlos, Tohono O'odham Nation
Lynnette Grey Bull, Amber Alert Training, U.S. Department of Justice Initiative
Rafael Tapia, National Relief Charities
Amy Duffy, Western Regional Partnership
Terry Hansen, Western Regional Partnership

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 A.M. The roll was called and a quorum was established.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A motion was made by Mr. Spurlin to pass items on the consent agenda (minutes of August 14, 2014) and was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard. Hearing no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

CHAIRPERSON REPORT:

None.

DIRECTORS REPORT:

Mrs. Fire Thunder began with the appropriation report for FY15 is \$56,900 and stated that the office will continue to meet obligations under lean operations.

Mrs. Fire Thunder has been working with members of Governor Ducey's transition team compiling data regarding current activities, future interests and assisting with the inauguration ceremony.

Mrs. Fire Thunder provided an overview of the 20th Annual Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day. The focus for planning has been geared toward improving the quality of life through public safety. Our greatest challenge has been indentifying what types of activities we would be able to offer in order to influence change in the communities without impeding on tribal sovereignty. Based on our participation

as a contributing partner at the Tribal Leaders Education Forum, the discussions were focused on the social issues which impact educational performance (i.e., drugs, alcohol, behavioral health, suicide) which creates an opportunity for the Commission to involving Native Youth to address these areas of concern

Chief Bradley agreed and shared that a lack of supporting health and human services and parental stability is reflected in the learning environment. His officers are often on the defensive dealing with drugs and behavioral issues in schools struggling to keep order. He feels that by proactively speaking about substance abuse and alcohol with youth starting in their home environment is the most effective way to reach them. With this in mind the commission has been presented a unique opportunity to work with National Relief Charities (NRC) to offer a project to Tribal Youth Councils.

Mr. Rafael Tapia of NRC was introduced for presentation of the Native Youth Know (NYK) Project. Mr. Tapia stated he has reviewed a report produced on the 2013 Indian Town Hall and compared information with the community development services NRC has available with their partners. Last October, NRC held a focus group of professionals from behavioral health, educators and Boys and Girls Clubs. The consensus was Native youth are in need but have not been invited to participate in the discussion. Native youth know what's going on and that inspired the theme of this project to be Native Youth Know (NYK). NRC will provide start-up assistance and technical resources. Mrs. Fire Thunder suggested Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day as a venue for the first Native Youth Know Forum. Mr. Tapia offered on behalf of NRC funding for four scholarship based projects focused on public safety. They will request proposals to be submitted for a cash value of up to \$2000.00. Technical Assistance has been estimated around \$1500.00 though it will likely exceed that value based on tribe and its location. The other half of the NRC commitment is to extend formal invitations to tribal youth groups and have them participate in a workshop to encourage thought on what they believe are the issues and solutions in their communities. NRC hopes to create a long term relationship with the youth groups by tracking the awarded participants and their projects.

Mrs. Fire Thunder added the youth forum will run concurrent to the standard information session. The information session will focus on suicide prevention moderated by Kelli Donley of the Arizona Department of Health Services. An invitation was extended to Waylon Pahona from Healthy Active Natives as keynote speaker to tell his story of personal growth and weight loss. Jacob Moore, Assistant President of ASU Tribal Relations has agreed to be master of ceremonies for the youth forum. The youth forum will be capped off at 150 youth participants to address challenges in their tribal communities, identify feasible solutions to those challenges, and ask them to make a personal commitment to being a change agent in their community. All participants who make the personal commitment will have a follow-up contact to encourage them to maintain their commitment and let them know we support their ideas. The information collected from identifying the challenges and solutions will be used to compile a report from a youth perspective. As an additional exercise, the youth will be asked to visit six health and wellness exhibitors to earn an incentive. At the conclusion of the youth forum, NRC will do a check presentation to NYK awardees. All participants will be given a backpack with essential school supplies as parting gifts from NRC.

As for the Joint Protocol session, ITCA has made recommendations for featured speakers, the committee has no objections. Mr. Pryor has requested Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community provide the invocation and the White Mountain Apache Tribe Color Guard has been asked to present the colors. Mrs. Hubbard offered her assistance in fundraising and providing assistance with municipalities and volunteers. Mr. Pryor stated he is very excited about the youth component of this planning, and ITCA's engagement in the planning process. Mr. Pryor offered to design a senate floor seating chart in relation to the legislative districts. Mrs. Fire Thunder and Ms. Hubbard stated

volunteers will be present as in previous events. Ms. Hubbard said she will be present and happy to assist with table charts.

Mrs. Fire Thunder added the badging has been changed this year. Badges for the Senate floor will be different than the general public and the youth groups. Mrs. Hubbard asked about the details for floor badges. Mrs. Fire Thunder stated two floor badges are given to each tribe, one for each commission member, and each legislative member may extend floor privileges to anyone. Since legislators are not required to report their attendees, this creates a challenge for security to determine which visitors are expected to be seated on the floor. Mrs. Hubbard committed 5 volunteers to Mrs. Fire Thunder for the event. Mr. Pryor commended Mrs. Fire Thunder, her staff and Mr. Tapia for their hard work on the planning of this event.

Mrs. Fire Thunder stated there are six commission members' terms expiring in January. At this time the commission will be changing focus to public safety and most of the current memberships were brought on under economic development. We have a few members who will not be renewing their seats and have recommendations for replacements. For anyone who wishes to remain a member they will need to apply online with the Governor's Boards and Commissions office. If there is anyone who intends to step down, please notify us as soon as possible. Mr. Spurlin will be stepping down. Mr. Pryor made the statement it has been a pleasure working with him and he is appreciated for his service to the Commission.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION:

A. Human Trafficking in Indian Country – Lynnette Grey Bull, Not Our Native Daughters

Ms. Grey Bull works for the Department of Justice, Amber Alert Program. She is the heads of the Amber in Indian Country Program and Child Sex Trafficking Trainees Program Nationwide. Human trafficking is different in Indian Country than in domestic areas. There is a substantial rise of child sex trafficking of Native youth and marketing ads are skyrocketing across the nation. Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which victims are subjected to force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of commercial sex, debt bondage, or involuntary labor. Victims of human trafficking can be young children, teenagers, both men and women. They can be U.S. citizens, lawful Permanent Residents or foreign nations, and they can be found in urban, suburban, Native American reservations and rural areas. Minors under the age of 18 who are induced to perform commercial sex act are victims of trafficking, regardless of whether their traffickers used force, fraud, or coercion. Sex trafficking collects \$32 billion dollars in revenue every year. There is no national charity or public safety resource to assist the 565 Native American communities across the nation. Many of them do not have 911 assistance or victim services of any kind. Ms. Grey Bull has spoken with non-profits across the nation to find help for these victims and found many of them have limited resources to help victims. She has visited many reservations and found they lack basic resources such as domestic violence shelters. Native American youth have high levels of trauma and child abuse, cyber and internet dangers, poverty, lack of community youth services, and public resources. Ms. Grey Bull added she does Native youth roundtables throughout the year and finds it very beneficial to include youth in these discussions in order to learn what their needs are. There are many ways the children are found and lured into sex trafficking. Many are coerced by pimps and traffickers from social media. Parents and family members/guardians are selling their own children; in one instance she found a guardian sold a child for alcohol and cigarettes. Youth homelessness pushes them into a position to meet their basic needs by using their body to obtain food, shelter, drugs, and protection. Last, there is a webcam service that offers online buyers to purchase time in exchange for visual sexual services. The children exploit themselves in order to make money to meet their needs. Valley youth shelters have reported 93% of the youth that are housed have experienced child sex trafficking or survival sex. Native youth should have ready access of

prevention brochures, hotlines and resources. Collaboration with other tribal affiliates, governments and non-profits for victim services should become a reality.

B. Western Regional Partnership – Amy Duffy and Terry Hansen

The Western Regional Partnership (WRP) will be a significant resource to identify, address common goals, and emerging issues which develop solutions that support WRP partners. WRP provides a proactive and collaborative framework for senior-policy level Federal, State and tribal leadership to identify common goals and emergent issues in Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah and to develop solutions that support WRP Partners and protect natural resources, while promoting sustainability, homeland security and military readiness. WRP has five state regions, with importance to the military and significant State Trust landholdings. There are approximately 174 federally recognized tribes within these five regions. In WRP significant amounts of federally managed land which ranges from 34.1%-84.9% of total state land. 88% of federal public land is in the twelve most western states. WRP is structured with Co-Chairs consisting of the Honorable Gary Herbert, Governor of Utah, Mr. John Conger, Acting Deputy under the Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment and Janice Schneider, Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, DOI. The WRP Steering Committee consists of representatives of the five WRP states as well as several agencies. In 2013-2014 they held a Sixth Principal's Meeting and are very pleased with the outcome. Mr. Pryor was present at this meeting and gave positive feedback stating the conversation was dynamic. WRP has set forth several priorities within their individual committees which will require collaboration of information as a whole. This will include needing engage tribal participation. There needs to be communication between DOD and Tribes in order to establish agreements as not to impede on cultural and religious needs and allow for WRP to meet their mission goals.

FUTURE MEETING:

Thursday, January 8, 2015 from 9:30-11:30 A.M. 1700 W. Washington St., Suite 250, Phoenix

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

1. ADOT – Tribal Transportation, per Nathan Pryor
2. CAP – Water Issues, per Lucinda Hughes Juan
3. Peace Officers Standards Presentation, Chief Bradley

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 11:43 A.M.